



Water Permits Division e-Newsletter

JULY 31, 2012

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A SUMMARY OF WATER PERMITTING NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

APRIL—JUNE 2012

PERMITS ISSUED

4/1/12—6/30/12

Individual Minors	72
Individual Majors	8
Sewage Sludge & Biosolids Use or Disposal	15

GENERAL PERMITS

Class I Sanitary	77
Class II Sanitary	12
Class III Sanitary	3
Class IV Sanitary	9
Large Construction	132
Sand & Gravel	3
Petroleum UST	2
Oil & Gas Exploration—Coastal	12
Oil & Gas Exploration—Territorial	0
Auto Dealer	9
Hydrostatic Test	4
Exterior Vehicle Wash	7
Potable Water	0
Cement, Concrete & Asphalt	3
C&D Landfill	2
Groundwater	0
Dewater PST	0
Multi-Sector	31
Light Commercial	47

% CURRENT

MAJORS	95
MINORS/GENERALS	99

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

ISSUED	77
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TMDLS

Public Noticed	0
Approved by EPA	0

ASSESSMENTS

Data Sets Evaluated	139
Solicitation of Views Letters Reviewed	138

Water Permits Division (WPD) Newsletter

DEQ Water Permits Division publishes this quarterly newsletter to provide the regulated community, citizens, and other interested parties with updates and information relevant to water permitting, water quality modeling/TMDLs, water quality certifications, sewage sludge and biosolids permitting, and water quality standards and assessments activities. We welcome and solicit your comments, recommendations, and input. Please contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193 or Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3197.

Water Permits Division Staff Update

Ms. Lakesha Reed was hired in early June and assigned to the Water Quality Section. Ms. Jessica Sushinsky and Mr. Bryan Hitt left the WPD to pursue new endeavors. We all express thanks to them and wish them good luck.

Modification to LAJ660000

WPD has issued a modification to Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal General Permit LAJ660000. The general permit covers persons with an LPDES permit that have sewage sludge pumped out or removed from a sanitary wastewater treatment works and sold, given away, and/or transported off-site for a fee or other consideration. The modified permit was issued on July 10, 2012, and is effective August 1, 2012. It clarifies the applicability of the general permit, streamlines obtaining coverage under this general permit, and refines the record-keeping and reporting requirements. **Coverage under this modified permit will not require submittal of a Notice of Intent, provided that the facility meets the eligibility requirements of the permit.** The LAJ660000 is available on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits/Biosolids.aspx>. For more information contact Eura DeHart at 225-219-3213.

Method Update Rule

EPA has updated its "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act; Analysis and Sampling Procedures," also known as the "Method Update Rule." The new rule was published on May 18, 2012, and took effect on June 18, 2012. For more information on LDEQ's implementation procedure for the rule got to the following website: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/PublicParticipationandPermitSupport/LouisianaLaboratoryAccreditationProgram.aspx>

For a copy of the rule, please access this link: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-18/html/2012-10210.htm>

All laboratories or other individuals with questions or seeking accreditation may contact Paul Bergeron, Supervisor, DEQ Laboratory Accreditation Program at 225-219-3247 or paul.bergeron@la.gov

Antidegradation

LDEQ is reviewing the antidegradation policy in the water quality regulations and plans to finalize the update to the applicable regulations by the end of 2012. For more information contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

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Surface Water Withdrawals

Pursuant to Louisiana Act 955 of 2010, the State provides a mechanism for the sale of Louisiana surface water. A Memorandum of Understanding exists among LDNR, LDEQ, and LDWF, and these three agencies review surface water withdrawal requests to ensure the state's water resources are protected. During FY 2011-2012, LDEQ reviewed 56 withdrawal requests. A total of 77 requests have been reviewed by LDEQ since the inception of the Act.

LAG260000 Issuance Update

On June 10, 2011, Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit remanded the oil and gas territorial seas general permit LAG260000 to DEQ. As a result of the remand, DEQ has determined that it is necessary to modify the general permit to remove the outfall for produced water. Facilities wishing to discharge produced water were asked to apply for coverage under an individual permit by submitting the Oil & Gas-IND (O&G-IND) permit application, due to DEQ by April 1, 2012. To date, twenty one (21) O&G-IND permit applications have been received. Authorization to discharge produced water in the territorial seas will require participation in an evaluation of the effects of produced water discharges on the environment and human health. A stakeholder meeting was held on Feb. 23, 2012 to accept input from all stakeholders regarding the revised minimum study requirements and protocols for an evaluation of the effects of produced water discharges on the environment and human health. As a result of this meeting, changes were made to the minimum study requirements. A second stakeholder meeting was held on for July 19, 2012, in the Galvez Building, Room 1051 from 9:30-11:30 to discuss comments from the first meeting, to accept input regarding the revised minimum study requirements, and to discuss the timeline for issuance of the first individual LPDES permit. Questions may be directed to Melvin C. Mitchell at (225) 219-3197, Bruce Fielding at (225) 219-3231 or Jennifer Sheppard at (225) 219-3499.

Electronic DMRs

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is offering training for permittees on the use of the NetDMR online application for the submission of discharge monitoring reports. A discharge monitoring report, known as a DMR, is a self-reporting document that is generated by permittees that have a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. The DMR contains information pertaining to water discharges into waters of the state. For more information go to: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/NetDMR>



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Integrated Report Updates

On March 22, 2012, a final decision was reached by EPA on the 2010 Water Quality Integrated Report. Integrated Report category determinations for dissolved oxygen assessments on three coastal subsegments (LA021102_00, LA070601_00, and LA120806_00) were changed from category 4b to category 5, thus requiring TMDLs be developed by EPA. All other assessments and Integrated Report categories for the 2010 Integrated Report were fully approved by EPA. The 2010 report, particularly Appendix A which contains all water quality assessments for the state, can be found on the DEQ Website at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits/WaterQualityStandardsAssessment/WaterQualityInventorySection305b/2010WaterQualityIntegratedReport.aspx>. The 2012 Integrated Report is currently under internal review. For more information contact Al Hindrichs at 225-219-3212.

Nutrient Gradient Project Update

DEQ is conducting a comprehensive water quality characterization study in Louisiana's inland rivers and streams with \$506K plus additional funding from EPA. The study is designed to evaluate potential relationships between levels of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and their effects on aquatic species in Louisiana. Data collection processes are outlined in DEQ's Quality Assurance Project Plans for the project, which are approved by EPA. Sixty stream sites with low, medium and high nutrients levels were selected for sampling across the state in areas representative of Louisiana's regional patterns of ecological characteristics—called ecoregions. In all, five inland ecoregions will be sampled covering approximately two-thirds of the state. Monthly water quality sampling at study sites began in December 2011, and will continue through October 2012. Specialized training for summer-fall seasonal collections of attached algae and aquatic insects from woody debris was conducted for DEQ by the U.S. Geological Survey (Louisiana Office) during April 2012; training for fish collection and habitat assessments was conducted by Smith-Root and DEQ in May 2012. Sampling for algae, insects and fish was completed during mid-June and is planned to continue through October 2012. Field and laboratory data is tracked and reviewed as it comes in, and will be evaluated for further analyses. Contact Kris Pintado at 225-219-3188 for further information.

DEQ's TMDL Program

DEQ currently plans to submit 4 new fecal coliform TMDLs to EPA by September 30, 2013. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet the water quality standards. During the same time period, LDEQ will also focus on developing 16 new model projections to help reevaluate the dissolved oxygen criteria at various locations across the state. This ongoing work will ensure that future TMDLs, and their associated wasteload allocations and load allocations, are developed based on criteria that is protective of Louisiana's waterbodies. It will also lead to the confirmation or revision of existing TMDLs. In addition, LDEQ continues to assist local governments with TMDL implementation. For more information contact Chuck Berger at 225-219-3366 or Stephanie Braden at 225-219-3187.

Contact Information Update

The WPD is working to update all permittee contact information, including contact name, mailing address, email address, and phone number, in our permit database. The updated information will streamline the process to contact permittees in case of emergency. To update your contact information, please send an email to the PPPSD at facupdate@la.gov. Please be sure to include your facility's agency interest (AI) number and permit number.

106 Supplemental Grants

The Clean Water Act provides DEQ with supplemental grant funds through Section 106 of the Act to help address a variety of water quality problems. WPD Water Quality Section personnel have recently completed activities funded under the FY10 Permits and Enforcement grant. Work completed under the FY10 Permits and Enforcement Grant included testing and development of a payment gateway to allow annual and one time water permit fees to be paid online, as well as ongoing development of the addition of electronic signatures for single/multiple signees for online water permit applications. Work plans for more recent Section 106 supplemental funds for FY10 and FY11 have been approved to further support the State Monitoring Strategy by providing for further data collection in Louisiana ecoregions to support nutrient criteria development. The FY12-FY13 grant application and work plan have been developed and submitted to EPA; this grant will support further data collection to support DO and mineral criteria development and to fund EPA's contractors to conduct the National Wetlands Survey and the National Rivers and Stream Survey. For more information contact Tara Nixon at 225-219-3189.

Sewage Sludge Haulers and Disposal Sites

WPD has registered 217 sewage sludge transporters for 2012-2013. **The 2011-2012 registrations expired on June 30, 2012. Renewal registration forms for 2012-2013 were due by May 1, 2012.** WPD has approved 74 facilities for receipt of sewage sludge for treatment and/or disposal. A list of all approved sewage sludge disposal facilities and a list of all approved sewage sludge haulers is posted on the DEQ Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Internet site <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits/Biosolids.aspx>. Both lists will be updated every 60 days. For more information contact Eura DeHart at 225-219-3213 or Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

GOMA All Hands Meeting

The 7th annual Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) All Hands Meeting was held June 19-21, 2012, in Corpus Christi, Texas. New GOMA Chair Jerome Zeringue, Louisiana's Executive Director for the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), led panel discussions between participants and business leaders from shipping, oil and gas, tourism and seafood industries. Challenges identified as impacting coastal businesses include: the BP spill, climate change, storm readiness and effective information exchange. Funding to attend the meeting was provided for GOMA representatives from CPRA, DEQ, the Department of Education (DOE) and the Louisiana Sea Grant Program. GOMA's leadership was rotated from Mississippi to Louisiana in February 2012.

DEQ Receives 20K EPA Grant

EPA is providing DEQ with \$20K in technical support to help identify stakeholders and small businesses in Louisiana potentially affected by implementation of nutrient standards. The information is needed as part of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement (FEIS) required by Louisiana statutes (R.S. 49:953 and 965.2-965.8) in the rulemaking process. Since 2008, Louisiana is one of few states required to prepare an economic impact statement and flexibility analysis that addresses small businesses before adopting laws that may affect them. The regulations define a small business as domiciled in Louisiana, employing 100 or fewer full-time employees, and gross annual sales less than \$10 million or total net worth of less than \$2 million. For questions, contact Kris Pintado (225) 219-3188.